

~~SECRET~~Approved For Release 2002/06/17 : CIA-RDP83-00500R000100100004-9
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT*Memorandum*

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 11 October 1962

FROM : Chief, Foreign Documents Division

SUBJECT: FDD Monthly Progress Report - September 1962

25X1A 1. On 26 September, Chief, FDD, briefed the Air Force Science Advisory Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Machine Translation concerning CIA's present views on MT. The committee was informed of the Agency's decision to terminate its support of the [] project in March 1963, after an evaluation of the project's program and product produced no evidence that acceptable translations without extensive post-editing could be expected within the foreseeable future. It was observed

25X1A that post-editing the [] product resulted in costs two to three times those of human translation and required twice as much time to produce a finished translation. Current IBM translations, in contrast, could be post-edited in one

25X1A third of the time required for a similar [] translation.

The committee was advised of the estimated volume of literature requiring scanning and, since Russian comprises only 7.5% of the total, accelerated MT research in languages other than Russian was strongly recommended.

In the course of the briefing reference was made to the considerable quantity of foreign scientific literature appearing each year and the problem of scientists in finding time for reading full translations of all of it, in view of which the need was evident for a machine which could produce abstracts or extracts of scientific materials.

25X1A 2. [] was appointed technical liaison officer with the [] project to represent Agency interests during the phase-out period of the project.

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3. By DCI decision, the Committee on Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications has been disestablished as an instrument of USIB. Since the committee's coordinating function has been vested in the Agency, it is planned to reconvene the committee as required to serve as a coordinating mechanism and as a community reference point for matters affecting the exploitation or translation of foreign language publications.

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4. The support services of the Division were reorganized on September 4th to effect an expansion and centralization of these services. This was necessitated by the increasing productivity of the area branches resulting from the use of dictation equipment and the Division's aim to provide consumers the most timely service possible.

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5. With the same objective in view the Linguist Consultant Service at Headquarters was augmented early in the month. [redacted] was placed in charge of the Service vice [redacted]

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6. On 27 September, Chief and Deputy Chief, FDD, visited Armed Services Technical Information Agency (ASTIA) for a briefing on that organization's activities. The briefing was conducted primarily by the Commanding Officer, Col. James O. Vann, with contributing comment by Dr. Charles E. Bernier, Director and S. Edward Pope, Deputy Director for Technical Operations.

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ASTIA has been functioning as a library of scientific and technical information reports collected domestically from and for the support of R and D contractors of the Department of Defense. [redacted]

Col. Vann offered to discuss the ASTIA information input and retrieval system with interested CIA personnel and to make available to Agency analysts reports received by ASTIA.

In return Chief, FDD, offered to complement the ASTIA collection program by disseminating to ASTIA the Scientific Information Report series, the unclassified CTS [redacted] scientific and technical translations. 25X1A

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7. Military reservists of the Division were briefed on [redacted] organization and functions on 14 September.

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J. J. BAGNALL

Enclosures:
Statistical Report
Details of personnel actions